Effects and Affects of Action Research

Action research, by definition, is a more direct, concentrated form of research than academic research. The teachers, students, and families involved are profoundly affected, because the research done and the changes that can come from that research are tailored for and applied to these groups. The teacher performing action research has the unique opportunity to fix the problems they see on the micro-level, in this case their own classroom or school. One of the many frustrations of educators is the sheer breadth of needs that children have. No two children are the same, much less the differences that exist in large groups of children. To be able to solve problems and breed effective teaching methodologies on the macro level is difficult at best. Action research allows teachers to essentially take a smaller bite out of the larger problems in education and formulate solutions for their own class. Teachers are then more satisfied with their jobs and performance, improving their family lives as well as their professional lives. This approach is also more beneficial for students and their families as well. Students benefit from solutions that are much more applicable to their specific situation. This allows the students to have the best chance of success in the classroom. The trickle-down effect from this is that there is much less stress on students’ families because the students are able to do better with less assistance, and the assistance that is given by the family will supplement a true need for the student, not a lack of support from the educational system.

My action research project on the Pygmalion Effect can help change the lives of the children negatively impacted by this phenomenon and it ties in ideally with the Brooklyn College Education Department’s Mission Statement. By doing action research, I will be contributing to the collective effort “to create socially just, intellectually vital, aesthetically rich and compassionate communities that value equity and excellence, access and rigor.” Further, all action research contributes to the communal effort and sharing of ideas to better educate our students. Eventually, my action research project can help effect change on the macro level as well as the micro level as I share ideas with my fellow educators from my research.